

Pair Swept Over Falls; CIA Man Lost, Wife Safe

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STATINTL

A Central Intelligence Agency employe back from an assignment in Germany, was missing last night and his wife hospitalized for shock after they were swept over the Potomac River's Great Falls.

"We jumped in together," Mrs. Dorothy M. Woodbury, 32, told Fairfax Police Pvt. C. H. Simpson.

Dragging operations for the body of her 31-year-old husband, James A. Woodbury, was halted late in the afternoon by a heavy thundershower and approaching darkness, but will be resumed today.

Work "Pressure" Cited

Mrs. Woodbury, in semilucid conversation with Pvt. Simpson, indicated the "pressure" of her husband's work was so great that they decided to do away with themselves, he said.

They returned from the German assignment with their two children about a month ago, neighbors said, and were living at 1412 North Hartford street, Arlington.

One son, Paris, 8, was found watching television in the deserted house after the drowning. The other boy, Jeff, 10, was staying with neighbors.

Mrs. Woodbury became separated from her husband in the water and was swept into an eddy just below the telescopes on the observation point at Great Falls park. Spectators there saw her sitting on a rocky ledge, trying, and helped her to the park pavilion.

Swept Downstream

Another spectator, Roy Wilingham, 42, a telephone company employe, of Vienna, Va., who was visiting the park, said he saw the man coming down the river, flailing the water with his arms and apparently attempting to grasp at rocks.

He said Mr. Woodbury disappeared in the whirlpool called the Spout, bobbed up again and then was swept downstream.

At the park pavilion, James A. Watts, superintendent of Fairfax County parks, said Mrs. Woodbury, almost incoherent when first brought out, said "we both wanted to die" and that her husband had been assigned to duty he didn't want and "they wouldn't release him from it."

At one point, when offered a cup of coffee, she asked to be left alone; then went out, got into their car which they had parked near the falls. A short time later she got out



JAMES A. WOODBURY

and started walking toward the river again, seeking, she said, her shoes and purse. Police stopped her before she reached the edge.

The couple went into the water, police theorized, about a quarter mile north of the park and 300 feet above the falls.

Son Watching TV

In her conversation with Pvt. Simpson before she was taken to Arlington Hospital, Mrs. Woodbury muttered she was "glad to be alive" and said she hoped her husband would be found alive.

Mr. Woodbury's brother, Maynard, of 4519 South Thirty-first street, Arlington, and another relative hurried Mrs. Woodbury out of the hospital's back door about 7 p.m.

Hospital authorities said she suffered no injuries, but was quite disturbed emotionally.

Mr. Woodbury said his brother's

wife did not talk much, except to say "Jim's gone."

Earlier, Maynard Woodbury and his wife had gone to the Hartford street house, where they found Paris watching television on the second floor while police searched the neighborhood for him. The front door was found open and the screen door ajar.

Made Previous Trip

Shortly after Paris was found, Jeff came home from a shopping trip with his friend, Bruce Ganger, and Bruce's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Ganger, of 1305 N. Henderson street. They had left about 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Ganger said that although the boys were good friends, he and his wife met the Woodburys only last Sunday.

"Oddly enough, we went to Great Falls that day," Mr. Ganger said.

Nothing unusual occurred, he said, although the Woodburys did climb down the face of a cliff to fish with the boys.

Maynard Woodbury said he had seen his brother about three weeks ago, and that both he and Dorothy appeared to be in good spirits.

"It comes as a great shock," he said. "We knew he had a new assignment in this area, but of course didn't ask him what it was. I can't imagine what they would do this for."

Another brother, Wendell, a State Department employe, lives at 417 South Lee street, Alexandria, Va. He could give no explanation for the tragedy.

Maynard Woodbury said there are two other brothers: Wayne, in Texas, and Wallace, in New Delhi, India. An uncle, George Woodbury, lives at 9907 Portland road, Silver Spring, Md.

James Woodbury graduated from the University of Iowa, where he met Dorothy, Maynard Woodbury said. They had been married about 12 years.

The Woodbury family is from Cornwith, Iowa, where the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Woodbury, still live. Dorothy Woodbury

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